



## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

*These bulletins are purely informational for the maritime community within this Captain of the Port zone. They advise you of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System. As important, they help to manage expectations & facilitate cooperation regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security. Increased vigilance in our maritime world hinges significantly upon proactive engagement & information sharing with the private sector, which has the primary responsibility for security & safety at their waterfront facilities & vessels.*

**BULLETIN NO: 011-03**

**Date: May 21, 2003**

### **SUBJECT: TERRORIST THREAT ADVISORY UPDATE, BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

1. On Tues, May 21, 2003 the national threat level was raised from "**Elevated**" (yellow) to "**High**" (orange). The intelligence community believes that Al-Qaida has entered an operational period worldwide. In the wake of the terrorist bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco, intelligence reports indicate that terrorists may attempt attacks against targets in the United States. Al-Qaida and those sympathetic to their cause remain the principal threat. Threats may also emanate from other anti-US terrorist groups and ad hoc groups or disgruntled individuals not connected to existing terrorist organizations or state sponsors of terrorism.
2. International terrorist groups, such as Al-Qaida, have demonstrated the ability to plan and conduct complex attacks, simultaneously, against multiple targets. Recent terrorist attacks overseas have demonstrated the use of small arm equipped assault teams, large vehicle borne explosive devices, and suicide bombers. The bombings in Riyadh, Morocco, and Israel underscore terrorists' desires to attack soft targets. At the same time, intelligence reports in recent months point to a wide range of possible infrastructure targets that Al-Qaida may have plans to attack. These include, but are not limited to: nuclear power plants, power generating facilities, fuel farms, and gas stations, passenger vessels, passenger rail and vehicle bridges.
3. Terrorists exploit vulnerabilities left exposed, choosing the time, place and method of attack according to the weaknesses they observe or perceive. Increasing the security of a target makes it more difficult for terrorists to successfully strike. It is important to maintain awareness and look for suspicious activity or "things out of place." Few terrorist attacks are executed without pre-operational surveillance of the desired target in order to determine target suitability, security and noticeable patterns in the target's movements, physical security, and the surrounding environment. Activities suggesting possible terrorist surveillance may include:
  - Foot surveillance involving 2-3 individuals working together.
  - Mobile surveillance using bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, sport-utility vehicles, cars, trucks, boats or small aircraft.
  - Persons/vehicles seen in the same location on multiple occasions; persons sitting in a parked car for an extended period of time.
  - Persons not fitting into the surrounding environment, such as wearing improper attire for the location, or persons drawing pictures or taking notes in an area not normally of interest to a tourist.
  - Persons using possible ruses to cover their activities, such as taking on a disguise as a beggar, demonstrator, shoe shiner, fruit or food vendor, street sweeper, or a newspaper or flower vendor not previously recognized in the area.
  - Persons videotaping or photographing security cameras or guard locations. Unusual or prolonged interest in security measures or personnel, entry points and access controls, or perimeter barriers such as fences or walls.
  - An increase in anonymous threats followed by individuals noticeably observing security reaction drills or procedures. Questioning of security or facility personnel by an individual(s) that appears benign.
4. **Transportation authorities & infrastructure owners & operators** are recommended to evaluate current security procedures & apply, as appropriate, protective measures that correspond to threat condition **High** (orange) under the homeland security advisory system. Additionally, since a terrorist attack could occur at any level, officials at transportation facilities should continue to report suspicious activities or persons to their local FBI field office. The U.S. Dept of Transportation reminds members of the marine transportation system to report information concerning suspicious activity to their local FBI office through the FBI website <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm> or to the national infrastructure protection center (NIPC) at its website <http://www.nipc.gov/incident/cirr.htm>.
5. Port Security Committee stakeholders & other members of the Maritime Industry are encouraged to review & implement appropriate security measures for "MARSEC 2" as recommended in the latest U.S. Coast Guard port security planning guidance.
6. The USCG continues to be on a heightened state of alert consistent with the current Homeland Security threat level. We are taking appropriate measures consistent with the existing security posture. The USCG is working with DHS, DOT, the FBI, & other security & law enforcement agencies to ensure the security of ports, waterways, & facilities. You are encouraged to continue close cooperation & coordination of necessary security efforts with your local/state law enforcement agencies. Report any suspicious activity to the Coast Guard via marine radio or via our 24-hour Coast Watch Hotlines or the National Response Center.

**Connecticut: (800) 774-8724.**

**Long Island, NY: (800) 697-8724.**

**Other areas: (800) 424-8802 (National Response Center)**

S. S. GRAHAM, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Captain of the Port